

March 2010



# Santa Rosa County District 2 Newsletter

## *A Message From Your Commissioner*

**District 2  
Commissioner  
Bob Cole**

**Contact**  
6495 Caroline Street  
Suite M  
Milton, FL 32570

**Phone:**  
(850) 983-1877 WK

**E-mail:**  
comm-cole@  
santarosa.fl.gov

**Fax:**  
(850) 983-1856



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the mail.

BBBBBBBBBBBBBB! Well maybe it is about to start being a little more like Florida around here? I enjoyed a few days of cold weather and even the morning ice and seeing snow in the sun shine state, but I did not like my power bill, so maybe now we will all get to enjoy some great spring temperatures. Time to start getting gardens and flower beds ready!

As your county commissioner, I have continued to follow the progress on Avalon Boulevard and request the state maintain the funding overage on this project to speed up its completion. The board worked together to get state funding replaced on U.S. Highway 87 through Holley so we can get it finished instead of just sitting there with everything half done.

We have worked to continue growth in the industrial park. It would be hard to pass the east entrance without seeing the new Hackney building and now the East Milton Road expansion is being constructed.

I am disappointed that we were not able to stop the permitting of Suncoast for a construction and demolition pit, maybe the economics of it will not work out. The really big news is we are going to have a grocery store in East Milton! If you have not noticed, the white and red building on U.S. Highway 87 just south of U.S. Highway 90 is being remodeled into an IGA. Norris Mechanical is performing the work and I know it will be a much needed and most welcome addition to our community. I wish them the best of luck and encourage everyone to support this new store.

Please remember to help each other when you can and as YOUR representative to the board, please contact me if you have any concerns or problems in your neighborhood.

Warm regards,  
*Bob Cole, District 2 Commissioner*

### **Peter Prince Airport Survey**

Santa Rosa County will conduct a survey on services being provided by the current fixed base operator at Peter Prince Airport. The purpose of the survey is to determine if additional or modifications to services offered by the FBO, AMS, are in need. The survey will be distributed via e-mail and as an inspection letter insert to current tenants, prospective tenants on the hangar waiting list, and local pilots through the non-profit corporation Flight Watch. Results of the survey are expected by May. The Santa Rosa County Aviation Advisory Committee will review the findings and make any recommendations to the board of county commissioners.





# Santa Rosa District 2 News

## Industrial Park Growth

The new H.T. Hackney Company distribution facility is well on its way to completion. TEAM Santa Rosa worked with Hackney to cement their decision to locate to the SRIP. In the end, they chose the 29.93-acre location in the Industrial Park because it offered large parcels of land with ideal proximity to Interstate 10, and of course, an excellent area work force. Hackney is a food distribution business that supplies a wide variety of products from dairy to snack items to convenience and grocery stores as well as pharmacies. The company broke ground this summer on their 158,584 square foot facility. The new Milton facility will distribute products such as milk, ice cream, groceries, snacks, water, juices and tobacco products to the convenience, grocery and drug channels of trade. Upon completion, this Hackney site will offer employees benefits with their compensation packages and salaries that are approximately 15 percent above the average wage in Santa Rosa County. This particular location will not only provide distribution services, but will also have a 6,989 square foot fleet service center.

The Bay Area Food Bank recently relocated their northwest Florida base of operations. Originally located in Pace, the food bank built a new facility on two acres in the Santa Rosa Industrial Park. The grand opening of the 15,000 square foot facility was held in March of 2009 and now serves a nine-county region between Covington County in Alabama and Bay County in Florida to include over 500 feeding programs. This equates to approximately two million



**Above: Construction on the H.T. Hackney Company distribution facility.**

pounds of food distributed per year. The Bay Area Food Bank project brought Santa Rosa a capital investment of over \$1.5 million and the company expects to double both its distribution and workforce over the next four years.

Prestige Fire Sprinkler, Inc. recently moved into their new building, also located in the Santa Rosa Industrial Park. Their 12,500 square foot building is located on three acres in the park. They broke ground on the facility in the fall of 2009. The building was completed in October and they now employ 30 people at wages that are 50 percent above the county average. By the third year of occupancy, they anticipate a capital economic investment of nearly \$750 thousand and increasing their staff by 10 people.

Quality Assurance is another company that recently broke ground in the Santa Rosa Industrial Park. In the fall of 2009 the company began construction on a new 5,000 square foot facility. The company currently employs five people, pays excellent salaries at 115 percent above the county's average wage and is expanding its operations. The company produces prosthetic devices that are made by a special machine called a "CNC" machine. CNC stands for Computer Numerical Control. Essentially, a programmer configures the computerized machine to produce the customized piece of equipment, the machine makes the device and then out comes the product.

Gulf Cable is currently building a facility on 16 acres that will be 70,000 square feet and house 120 employees. Gulf Cable comes to Santa Rosa County from New Jersey. The company distributes and warehouses cable for the renewable energy industry. This project is a tremendous boon for our area, as upon completion of the build, the company will be paying the additional 100 employees they hire 150 percent above average wage. WTEC is already operating on a smaller scale in the park with 20 employees. The company qualified for qualified target industry incentives that will total \$.5 million over the life of the economic development agreement.

Construction in Santa Rosa County has been booming lately. Great things are in store for a prosperous 2010.

**Submitted by: TEAM Santa Rosa**



**Above: The Bay Area Food Bank relocated their northwest Florida base of operations to the Santa Rosa Industrial Park.**





# *Santa Rosa District 2 News*

## **Main Street Milton Designated Florida Main Street Program For February**

Secretary of State Kurt S. Browning announced on February 2 that Main Street Milton has been named the Florida Main Street Program of the Month for February 2010. Selection for this award is based on a record of active participation in the Florida Main Street Program.

Main Street Milton was designated in 2000 to promote the preservation of the area's historical resources and small-town character. Since its designation, it has earned several Secretary of State Main Street

Awards, including two in 2001 – just a year after it joined the statewide program. The announcement of Main Street Milton as the Program of the Month for February 2010 comes just over a year after a downtown fire which nearly destroyed the city's historic Imogene Theatre on January 7, 2009. A cornerstone of the city's historic downtown, the theatre sustained significant damage, but is currently being restored by its owner, the Santa Rosa Historical Society, and is expected to reopen sometime in 2011.

12,800 volunteer hours to Main Street Milton's revitalization efforts.

### **Main Street Milton First Friday**

Historic Downtown Milton comes alive! Businesses stay open till 8 p.m. providing a great opportunity to shop, eat and have a great time.

Held the first Friday of every month. Explore quaint shops, antiques, art galleries, churches, and restaurants all in walking distance. Downtown Milton is the scene for artist and crafters. Car club of the month and a no-admission "Cruise-In Meet and Greet" open to all auto/motorcycle enthusiasts.

Meander through the streets lined with charming historical homes to find dining, shopping and live music options or stroll along the Riverwalk Park and Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza located on the banks of the beautiful Blackwater River. It's your night to discover "Historic Downtown Milton".



*Imogene Theatre*

Since designation in 2000, Main Street Milton's program area has seen 56 public and private revitalization projects worth a total value of nearly \$2.5 million. During the same period, downtown has experienced a net increase of 34 new businesses in its district, creating 123 jobs. In addition, local residents have dedicated over

## **City, County Join Together on Road Project**

The City of Milton and Santa Rosa County Commission have joined together to fund a road project in the City of Milton that is long overdue. That section of Park Avenue that connects Dogwood Drive and Alabama street is scheduled to be milled and re-surfaced sometime early this year. County Commissioner Bob Cole came to the City Council and let it be known that he wanted to champion this project in order to improve the condition of this roadway that is not only a connector between Dogwood and Stewart Street but is also a vital link for Milton High and Rhodes Elementary Schools. The Milton City Council, who had recently begun a study to determine how to best improve the entire road system in Milton, agreed to help support the effort to repave Park Avenue as a significant start to their road improvement program. The Santa Rosa County Commission has agreed to fund the milling and re-surfacing costs of the project, while the City of Milton, as the local utility provider, has agreed to fund the cost of raising and repairing all utility manholes and re-striping the street. This project will allow the re-establishment of the bicycle lanes and cross walks along Park Avenue that will improve the safety of the pedestrians and the bicycle riders traveling along this thoroughfare including many of our children who use this roadway to get to and from school.

Mayor Guy Thompson of the City of Milton said "This is a great example of how we can work together as local governments in these trying economic times to solve the problems facing governments and improve conditions for our citizens. Working separately, we have both been struggling to meet the transportation needs of our constituents, but together we were able to quickly get this job done." Commissioner Cole stated "We recognize that the roadways in Milton are not just used by the residents of the city but also provide support for all county residents. As the county seat for Santa Rosa County the city hosts many county offices and schools and also operates the parks, boat ramps, the Milton Community Center and many youth sports programs used by county residents."

**- Brain Watkins  
Milton City Manager**



# Santa Rosa District 2 News

## Santa Rosa County Fair

The Santa Rosa County Fair is right around the corner! The dates for this year's fair are March 30- April 4. This coincides with spring break for the school system and ends on Easter Sunday. Opening times and admission prices are posted on line at [www.srcfair.com](http://www.srcfair.com).

This will be the 19th year for the fair after being restarted in 1991. While lots of new things are in store for the visitors, the fair board continues to maintain the ole' country favorites such as a full Dodge Rodeo show, pig chases and a pickle contest! Local entertainment will be featured all week, with a big family day on Sunday with Christian and gospel music on the stage. Saturday night we are bringing back Vince Vance and the Valiants. This was such a great show last year we had to have them back again! Last year we started something new at the request of many of our patrons, Kiddie Land, an area separated from the main fair entertainment where the smaller patrons enjoy their games and fun. We had the midway bring in smaller children's rides and then had shows and games just for them. This year's will be even better, with additional professional shows, crafts and games.

We got rained on last year four out of six days; our tents got wet, but not our spirits! We have not only put together another great show this year but we are planning something "HUGE" for our 20th year anniversary - "The Santa Rosa County Agri-Plex and Fair Grounds"! We are working diligently to create a permanent home for the Fair and have begun partnerships with many other entities. We hope to build a state of the art, agri-plex that will house the fair grounds, an agri-business center, educational facilities and an event center to provide entertainment and festivals all year long.

Come on out to the fair and see the new plans, your old favorites and make new friends! We always welcome hardworking, creative volunteers - ask how you can become part of the team!



## 10 QUESTIONS MINUTES

TO DEFINE WHO WE ARE AS A NATION

### The Census: A Snapshot

- **What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.
- **Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—both citizens and non citizens.
- **When:** You will receive your questionnaire in March 2010 either by U.S. mail or hand delivery. Some people in remote areas will be counted in person.
- **Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **How:** Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

### A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

- Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.
- Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

### 2010 Census Questionnaire: Easy, Important and Safe

- With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.
- By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

